

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04384 301414Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1315

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 4384

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, NEA, ONLY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: THE NEW AMBASSADOR

REF: ISLAMABAD 4194

1. IN POLICY RECOMMENDATION WE SUBMITTED EARLIER THIS WEEK (ISLAMABAD 4194), WE URGED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A NEW AMBASSADOR IN PLACE IN AS EXPEDITIOUS AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL A WAY AND ARGUED AGAINST USING HIS ARRIVAL DATE AS A SIGNAL OF EITHER APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT. SINCE OUR MESSAGE WENT OUT, BHUTTO HAS DELIVERED HIS ANTI-AMERICAN SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT. IN A SEPTEL WE ARE SENDING IN FRESH RECOMMENDATIONS WE HAVE WORKED UP IN LIGHT OF THE NEW SITUATION HERE. GIVEN THE SPECIAL SENSITIVITY OF THE QUESTION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S APPOINTMENT AND ARRIVAL DATE HERE, I THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE SLUGGED TO YOU.

2. I NOW RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT DELAY FORMALLY ANNOUNCING AND SUBMITTING THE HUMMEL APPOINTMENT TO THE SENATE UNTIL WE HAVE SOME BETTER IDEA OF WHAT COURSE BHUTTO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04384 301414Z

INTENDS TO FOLLOW IN US-PAK RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF HIS SPEECH. (I DO NOT RECOMMEND THE MUCH MORE DRASTIC STEP OF WITHDRAWING OUR REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT.) I AM FRANKLY QUITE TROUBLED BY THE PROSPECT THAT WE MAY FIND OURSELVES ANNOUNCING HUMMEL'S APPOINTMENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, SUGGESTING TO THE PAKS THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CARRY ON IN A BUSINESS AS USUAL FASHION JUST AS THE PM AND THE KEPT

PRESS HERE ARE HEADLINING OUR INVOLVEMENT IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY TO OUST THE PM AND PERHAPS TO ASSIST IN THE BREAK-UP OF PAKISTAN. I'M ALSO CONCERNED BY THE PROSPECT OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR FACING SOME VERY TOUGH AND POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS DURING HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS ON A WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES BEGINNING WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF WHY BHUTTO IS ACTING THE WAY HE IS AND GOING ON THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS AND NON-PROLIFERATION. LOOKING FARTHER AHEAD, THERE IS A VERY STRONG PROBABILITY THAT IF BHUTTO DOES AGREE TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS HE WILL SEEK TO MAKE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE PAK POLITICAL PROCESS THE KEY ISSUE. IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE, IF THAT TURNS OUT TO BE THE SCENARIO, NOT TO HAVE A NEW AMBASSADOR ON BOARD DURING THAT TIME.

3. THE QUESTION MAY ARISE SHORTLY, IF THE GOP COMES THROUGH WITH ITS AGREEMENT TO THE APPOINTMENT. UNDERSTANDABLY I AM NOT PUSHING THEM ON THIS. WORD OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE VEST APPOINTMENT IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO CIRCULATE IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HERE. THE REPORT THAT HE IS TO BECOME EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAY LIMIT THE IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE. THIS LIMITED IMPACT MAY BE JUST RIGHT AT THIS TIME. I EXPECT THAT THE HUMMEL APPOINTMENT WILL ALSO LEAK, IF IT HASN'T ALREADY. THAT TOO SHOULD BE QUITE ACCEPTABLE AND WILL PLAY UP, TO OUR ADVANTAGE, OUR DELAY IN ANNOUNCING THE NOMINATION.

4. ANY CHARGE WHO MAKES A RECOMMENDATION LIKE THIS OPENS HIMSELF TO THE CHARGE OF SELF-SERVICE. IN LIGHT OF OUR  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 04384 301414Z

OWN RELATIONSHIP, I DOUBT THIS WILL PREY ON YOUR MIND.  
CONSTABLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, PFOR, PK, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009